

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, HU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
TIMAR

REF: BUDAPEST 3136 AND 3190

DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY

1. IN HALF HOUR DISCUSSION SEPT 19 WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TIMAR I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN HIGH LEVEL CONFIRMATION THAT GOH ANXIOUS TO HAVE VISIT CONTINUE, DISCUSS SCHEDULE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ATTENDANCE AT VALYI FUNERAL AND SPEAK ABOUT TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH LAZAR, BIRO AND TIMAR HIMSELF.

2. ON SUBJECT OF SECRETARY'S ATTENDANCE I SPECIFICALLY ASKED TIMAR IF HE KNEW WHETHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES WOULD BE SENDING DELEGATIONS TO VALYI FUNERAL, ADDING THAT IF THIS WERE CASE SECRETARY DENT, WHO PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH VALYI AS RESULT OF HIS VISIT LAST MARCH, MIGHT FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IF HE DID NOT ATTEND CEREMONY. TIMAR REPLIED THAT WHILE HE NOT TOTALLY INFORMED ON SUBJECT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE ANY HIGH RANKING FOREIGN
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DELEGATIONS PRESENT AT FUNERAL. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT

EVEN IF RANKING FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WERE TO COME TO BUDAPEST FOR FUNERAL GOH OF OPINION THAT SECRETARY'S PRESENCE AT CEREMONIES WOULD BE "INAPPROPRIATE" EXPLAINING SOMEWHAT UNCONVINCINGLY THAT "WE WOULD NOT WISH TO BURDEN SECRETARY DENT WITH ATTENDANCE AT SUCH AN UNHAPPY EVENT ON OCCASION OF HIS FIRST VISIT TO HUNGARY." ON OTHER HAND, TIMAR SAID IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO ATTEND FUNERAL. WHILE EXACT REASONS FOR GOH ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO FUNERAL ATTENDANCE STILL NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO ME, APPEARS THAT HUNGARIANS EITHER GENUINELY SEEKING TO AVOID ANY HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT FUNERAL CEREMONIES, WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MEAN MANY PROTOCOL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MOST OF HUNGARIAN PRINCIPALS IN DENT VISIT, OR THAT THEY FEEL POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT FROM PRESENCE OF HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL AT FUNERAL WHO WOULD OUTRANK OTHER REPRESENTATIVES.

3. I REPLIED TO TIMAR THAT EVEN IF SECRETARY DENT DID NOT ATTEND FUNERAL, I FELT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR HIM DURING THE PRECISE HOUR WHEN FUNERAL TAKING PLACE (1500-1600, SEPT 24), AND SUGGESTED THAT VISIT TO TUNGSTRAM FACTORY SCHEDULED FOR 1500 BE PUSHED BACK TO 1600. WE BELIEVE HUNGARIANS WILL NOW RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT. PERIOD FROM 1400 TO 1630 COULD THEN BE DEVOTED TO EITHER RELAXATION OR INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EMBASSY STAFF (OR BOTH) DEPENDING UPON SECRETARY'S WISHES.

4. OUR COMMENTS REGARDING TIMAR PROPOSALS FOR THEMES TO BE DISCUSSED IN SECRETARY'S THREE MORNING MEETINGS WITH HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS WILL FOLLOW IN SEPARATE TELEGRAM. PEDERSEN

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